

Be Your Own Lobbyist

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What is a Lobbyist?

An individual who is usually paid by a particular group to promote their positions to government authorities and elected officials.

What is a Lobbyist?

As a professional occupation, it is sometimes known as “government affairs” or “public affairs” work.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Important Activities

- Planning and Preparation are crucial.
- The most important activities must be completed well before the Legislative Session begins.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Important Activities

- Formation of a committee to help organize and coordinate legislative priorities is effective.
- Status of previously funded projects will impact the funding for current year-
SPEND \$\$\$

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Capital Outlay Appropriations

Tribes and other local governments must participate in the INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ICIP) to increase the likelihood of funding.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Capital Outlay Appropriations

Governor's Office will use the ICIP to determine which projects will be supported.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Capital Outlay Appropriations

The ICIP is a good marketing tool to concisely define the capital projects that are planned by the Tribe.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Important Activities

- Legislators are very receptive to tribal leaders, officials, staff, and tribal members. (More so than a hired lobbyist)
- Inform them of tribal community needs.

Being Your Own Lobbyist: Important Activities

- Prepare legislative proposal, concise and to the point. (Utilize ICIP)
- Submit a copy of capital outlay proposals to IAD before the sessions starts.
- Develop the “case” justifying the narrative with data, graphs, and relevant human interest stories.

Legislative Projections - 2008

July 31, 2007 **Albuquerque Journal**

"Building-Project Funds Likely to Shrink in 2008"

"lawmakers might have only one-third as much money as they did this year for brick-and-mortar projects and about half of what they spent in 2006."

"a backlog of \$1.3 billion in unspent funds...6,000 projects approved from 1998 to 2006"

"an estimated \$370 million will be available for legislators in January to spend on bricks and mortar."

Preparing for the Session: NM Legislature Website

- <http://legis.state.nm.us>
- Capital Outlay Request Form
- Find Legislative Reports
- Track Legislation
- See Committee Calendars
- Get Legislators' Contact Information

Be Aware of Criteria Used for Developing List of Statewide Project Needs

Initial Funding

- Project included in 5 year ICIP and is ready to commence.
- Project provides direct services to students, staff, or the general public.

Be Aware of Criteria Used for Developing List of Statewide Project Needs

- Continuation Projects
 - Project is in progress and completion requires additional funding due to escalating costs.
 - Project not adequately funded.

Be Aware of Criteria Used for Developing List of Statewide Project Needs

- Other Funding Considerations
 - Cost of renovation of existing building vs. construction of new building has been thoroughly evaluated.

During Session Activities

- Seek Committee Support.
- Telephone, personal visits, and write letter to educate legislators, encouraging support of your projects.
- Identify Legislator to introduce the bill and assist in the negotiations for its passage.
(Capital Outlay Request Form)

During Session Activities

- Monitor your bills and capital outlay requests closely. (Hearings Calendar)
- Tribal Entity presents testimony.
- All requests are reviewed. Not all requests are selected.
- Selected projects are forwarded to Governor's Office for final review and approval.

Tips on Testifying

- Before you begin your testimony:
 - Wait to be recognized by the Committee Chair
 - Always address information and answer questions through the Chair and committee members.
 - “Madame or Mister Chairman, members of the committee, Senator or Representative...”
 - Then proceed with your testimony.


2008 Legislative Session

January

January 15: Opening Day (noon)

January 30: Deadline for Introduction

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

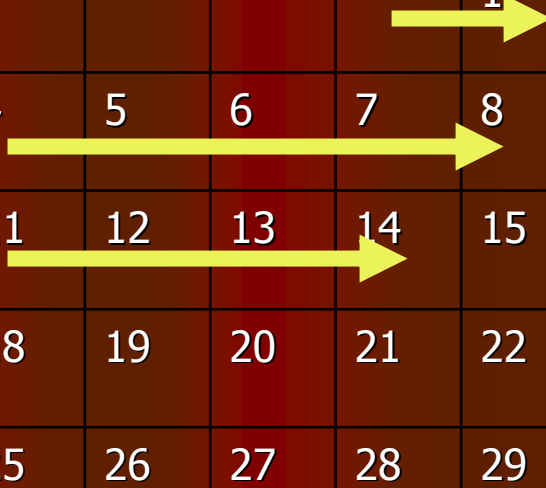


February

February 14: Session Ends

March 5: Legislation not acted upon by Governor is pocket vetoed.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		



Thank You!